

Remarks

Claims 1, 5 and 6 are currently amended herein. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore Claims 1 – 6 remain in the case. There are now three (3) independent claims. No additional fee is required.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. Section 112 rejection. It should now be clear that the apparatus claimed is for holding and carrying golf clubs but is not claimed in the combination with golf clubs.

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's Sec. 102 rejection of Claims 1 – 4 as being anticipated by Townsend et al. There are substantial differences between Townsend and the present invention. For one, the tubular members of Townsend are obviously as long as the golf clubs carried thereby. Thus, the cross-section area required at the bottom of the golf bag must be large enough to accommodate the tubular members and the other golf clubs. In contrast, with the substantially shorter tubular members of the present invention, the bottom of the golf bag need only accommodate the grip ends of the clubs, a smaller cross-sectional area.

In addition, the tubular members of the present invention are shorter and opened at both ends. The shorter configuration reduces the weight of the apparatus. The open ends also prevent accumulation of water from rain and the like.

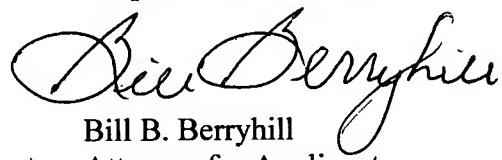
In contrast, the full length tubes of Townsend are obviously heavier and since they are closed at the lower ends are subject to collecting moisture, dirt or other unwanted materials. For these reasons, Claim 1 is easily distinguishable from Townsend and should be allowable.

Claims 2 through 4 are directed to additional features which in combination with Claim 1, are not shown in Townsend. They should be allowable.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended so that they are now in independent form and rewritten to overcome Sec. 112 rejections. As such, the Examiner has indicated that they would be allowed.

All of the claims, Claims 1 – 6, should now be in allowable form. As such, their allowance and issuance of a patent thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence, Amendment A (Revised), is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on Oct. 18, 2005, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.